

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of presenting catered information to a user, the method comprising:
  - a) identifying an item to be output to the user;
  - b) retrieving sub-items from storage;
  - 5 c) building output from the sub-items;
  - d) presenting the output to the user; and
  - e) recording any user interface activity in storage.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage further comprises a database.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage further comprises an in-memory data  
10 structure.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein recording user interface activity further comprises:
  - a) determining if the activity should change the default presentation for future  
information requests; and
  - b) if the activity should change the default presentation for future information requests,  
15 adding this information to storage as one of a user-specific item, an item-specific sub-  
item, an item-type specific sub-item or a user preference.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises removing items added as a  
result of user interface activity.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the removal of items added as a result of user interface  
20 activity occurs when directed by the user
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the removal of items added as a result of user interface  
activity occurs after a certain number of presentations to the user.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein the removal of items added as a result of user interface  
activity occurs after a fixed time.
- 25 9. The method of claim 5, wherein the removal of items added as a result of user interface  
activity occurs when the item is no longer deemed uninteresting.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the sub-items include default sub-items for the item to be  
output to the user.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the sub-items include user-specific sub-items derived  
30 from previous user interface activity.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the sub-items include item-specific sub-items derived  
from previous user interface activity.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the sub-items include item-type specific sub-items derived from previous user interface activity.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein presenting output to the user is accomplished using one of the group comprised of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a phone, a pager, and a network appliance.
15. An information presentation system, comprising:
- a) a repository of information;
  - b) an extraction agent operable to monitor and fetch information from the repository as directed by a user;
  - c) a storage operable to store information and user priorities;
  - d) a prioritization agent operable to determine a priority of presentation of the information; and
  - e) a user interface operable to present at least part of the information to the user.
16. The system of claim 15, wherein the repository of information resides on a different device than the storage.
17. The system of claim 15, wherein the repository of information resides on the same device as the storage.
18. The system of claim 15, wherein the storage resides on the same device as the user interface.
19. The system of claim 15, wherein the storage resides on a different device than the user interface.
20. The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface is presented by one of the group comprised of: a phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a personal computer and a network appliance.
21. The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface is an audio interface.
22. The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface is a visual interface.
23. The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface is multimodal.
24. An article including instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause it to:
- a) identify an item to be output to the user;
  - b) retrieve sub-items;
  - c) build of output from the sub-items;
  - d) present the output to the user; and
  - e) record any query about the output in the storage.

25. The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions, when executed by a machine, further cause it to:

a) determine if the query should be included as a default for future information requests;  
and

5      b) if the query should be included as a default, add a specific field to the storage.

26. The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions, when executed by a machine, further cause it to remove items when directed by the user.

27. The article of claim 26, wherein the removal of items added as a result of user interface activity occurs when directed by the user

10    28. The article of claim 26, wherein the removal of items added as a result of user interface activity occurs after a certain number of presentations to the user.

29. The article of claim 26, wherein the removal of items added as a result of user interface activity occurs after a fixed time.

15    30. The article of claim 26, wherein the removal of items added as a result of user interface activity occurs when the item is no longer deemed uninteresting.